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ABSTRACT

Thirty-five hundred public school library/media centers in 50 states were surveyed to obtain estimates of library resources and services available to pupils, and to determine the extent to which resources are an integral part of education. A description of libraries in public schools is provided, with additional analyses and data tables of basic statistics on salaries, expenditures, resources, staff, facilities, and hours of service. These are arranged by enrollment, size of school, grade level, and geographic location. A description of the survey methodology and tables of standard errors of estimate are appended. (KP)

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Statistics of Public School Libraries Media Centers Fall 1974

by
Nicholas Osso
National Center for Education Statistics

IR005351

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE
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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE
WASHINGTON: 1977

FOREWORD

This study of public school libraries and media centers, conducted as a part of the Library General Information Survey (LIBGIS), is the first such survey since the publication of "Public School Library Statistics, 1962-63" by the U.S. Office of Education.

The LIBGIS program was initiated in 1970 by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) with the publication of Planning for a Nationwide System of Library Statistics and was developed in close cooperation with the American Library Association (ALA) and its Statistics Coordinating Committee.

The data in this publication cover basic statistics on library collections, staffing, expenditures, receipts, loan transactions, and physical facilities; they are arranged by enrollment size of school, grade level, and geographic location. The survey instrument was disseminated and processed through the cooperation of 50 State agencies and the District of Columbia. The survey response rate was 95 percent.

Appreciation is expressed to the National Education Association and the American Library Association, to State education and library agencies, and to other cooperating organizations that made this survey possible.

Frank L. Schick, Chief
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INTRODUCTION

Library resources such as books, periodicals, and audiovisual materials are an integral part of a school's educational program. The central locations administering these resources, libraries and education media centers, serve the information needs of students, teachers, and administrators. This study attempts to show the degree to which library and media center resources are an integral part of education by providing a description of the public school library and media center universe, with estimates of expenditures, staff, facilities, and available resources. These data (except for mean salaries) were obtained from survey responses to a 1974 national school sample.(1)

Survey Universe

Eighty-five percent of the public schools surveyed reported having had library facilities (table 1). Of these, 68 percent were called libraries; 24 percent, media centers; and the remaining 8 percent, a variety of names. In the remainder of the text of this report, all of these facilities will be referred to as libraries.

Libraries were least prevalent in those public schools with enrollment below 300. Ninety-two percent of the secondary schools and 61 percent of the elementary and combined schools in this enrollment category did not have libraries. Ninety percent of the schools in central Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas (SMSA's) and 88 percent of those in noncentral SMSA's had libraries. Only 80 percent of the schools in non-SMSA locations had libraries even though such schools greatly outnumbered those in and around central SMSA's.

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(1) See appendix A.

Salaries

Since accounting procedures vary considerably by school, it was more feasible to collect mean salary data from each State rather than from each school in the sample. Consequently, the data in table A, showing the mean salaries of certificated staff in public school libraries, are not the product of a weighted sample survey like the other data in this report, but were obtained on a separate form from each State and aggregated to the United States total. Excluding Arkansas, Massachusetts, Washington (which were unable to provide mean salary data for this report), these mean salaries for certificated library staff ranged from a high of $16,221 in California to a low of $8,196 in Mississippi. The U.S. aggregate mean salary for library staff of $11,219 is lower than the $11,595 average annual salary for classroom teachers as reported in Statistics of Public Elementary and Secondary Day Schools, Fall 1974.

TABLE A.--Mean salaries of library staff, by State

State	Mean salary	State	Mean salary
Aggregate United States	$11,219		
Alabama	$ 9,000	Montana	$10,019
Alaska	16,209	Nebraska	8,581
Arizona	11,999	Nevada	13,994
Arkansas	(*)	New Hampshire	10,200
California	16,221	New Jersey	12,000
Colorado	11,544	New Mexico	10,702
Connecticut	12,874	New York	15,428
Delaware	12,123	North Carolina	10,816
District of Columbia	15,344	North Dakota	9,674
Florida	10,290	Ohio	10,654
Georgia	10,599	Oklahoma	9,218
Hawaii	14,769	Oregon	11,812
Idaho	9,844	Pennsylvania	11,853
Illinois	13,061	Rhode Island	11,814
Indiana	12,205	South Carolina	10,050
Iowa	11,227	South Dakota	8,690
Kansas	9,001	Tennessee	9,028
Kentucky	9,930	Texas	9,881
Louisiana	9,165	Utah	11,199
Maine	9,636	Vermont	8,219
Maryland	12,350	Virginia	9,919
Massachusetts	(*)	Washington	*
Michigan	14,587	West Virginia	9,371
Minnesota	12,854	Wisconsin	12,655
Mississippi	8,196	Wyoming	10,317
Missouri	9,388		

*Data not available

Other Expenditures

The remaining data in this report are the weighted product of those schools in the sample which reported having library facilities. Table B shows expenditures for public school libraries by purpose and by school level. While total expenditures at the elementary level were about 1 1/6 times greater than those at the secondary level, it must be remembered that there were about three times as many elementary schools as secondary schools in the survey. Although expenditures for salaries and wages were shown as part of library expenditures, they do not have to be part of a school's library budget.

Table B.--Expenditures for public school libraries, by purpose and level of school

School level	All schools	Secondary schools	Elementary and combined schools
	(In thousands)		
Total expenditures	$1,182,280	$545,890	$636,390
Salaries and wages	818,320	376,660	441,660
Books	162,960	76,100	86,860
Audiovisual materials	90,440	42,570	47,870
Equipment	66,450	28,010	38,440
Periodicals	24,870	14,310	10,560
Other	19,240	8,240	11,000

Library expenditures for materials and equipment by school level and membership are presented in table C. Additional expenditure data appear in tables 2 thru 8.

In order to provide users with comparable data, library expenditures per school were divided into ranges of $5 and $10 thousand. The $10,000 to $19,999 expenditure range was the largest, with 28,262 schools (38 percent). Seventy-six percent of the schools had library expenditures of less than $20 thousand (table 2). The mean library expenditure per school in 1973-74 was $15,843 (table 5).

Supplies, materials, and equipment represented 29 percent of the library expenditures (table 3), as follows: 14 percent for books, 2 percent for periodicals, .3 percent for microfilms, 6 percent for audiovisual materials, 5 percent for audiovisual equipment, and 2 percent for other expenditures.

Fifty-three percent of the schools reported total library expenditures between $10 and $30 per pupil (25 percent between $10 and $20 and 28 percent between $20 and $30). About 4 percent of the schools had library expenditures of less than $5 per pupil (table 4). The mean library expenditure per pupil in membership in the fall of 1974 was $30 (table 5).

Table C.--Library expenditures for materials and equipment, by school level and membership

School and level and membership	Books	Periodicals	Audiovisual materials	Equipment
		(In thousands)		
All schools	$162,960	$24,870	$90,440	$66,450
Secondary schools	76,100	14,310	42,570	28,010
2,000 or more	11,640	1,780	6,930	3,380
1,000-1,999	32,000	5,020	18,410	10,250
700-999	12,870	2,480	7,620	5,640
500-699	8,070	1,490	4,660	4,840
300-499	5,690	2,030	2,750	2,270
Under 300	5,830	1,510	2,200	1,630
Elementary and combined schools	86,860	10,560	47,870	38,440
2,000 or more	240	30	70	50
1,000 - 1,999	7,920	1,020	3,670	5,430
700 - 999	14,650	1,850	8,990	6,690
500 - 699	23,260	2,540	13,620	11,080
300 - 499	27,400	3,090	15,620	10,610
Under 300	13,390	2,030	5,900	4,580

Seventy-six percent of the schools reported expenditures for library books of less than $4 per pupil--more than 26 percent spent less than $2; 22 percent spent between $2 and $3; 27 percent spent between $3 and $4 (table 6).

Library expenditures in central SMSA's totaled $380 million--a mean expenditure of $27 per pupil. Noncentral SMSA expenditures totaled $431 million, for a mean expenditure of $31 per pupil; non-SMSA expenditures totaled $372 million, or $32 per pupil (tables 3 and 5). The mean per-pupil expenditure for books was $3 in central SMSA's, $4 in noncentral SMSA's, and $5 in non-SMSA's (table 8).

Resources

Books, audiovisual materials, and periodicals comprise the bulk of the library resources discussed in this section, with additional data appearing in tables 9 through 19.

Table D shows numbers of books and audiovisual materials, by enrollment size of school.

Table D.--Volumes of books added and held at end of year, and audiovisual materials held at end of year, by school membership

School membership	Volumes of books		Audiovisual materials held at end of year
	Added during year	Held at end of year	
All schools	37,500,000	506,900,000	68,000,000
2,000 - above	2,600,000	31,400,000	3,600,000
1,000 - 1,999	8,202,000	95,000,000	11,200,000
700 - 999	6,400,000	91,500,000	13,200,000
500 - 699	7,400,000	108,600,000	15,000,000
300 - 499	8,000,000	114,600,000	16,500,000
Under 300	4,900,000	66,800,000	8,500,000

Over 37 million library books were added to public school libraries during the 1973-74 school year, representing a mean of 502 books added per school (table 11). At the end of the 1973-74 school year there were 507 million volumes reported held in public school libraries, for a year end mean of almost 7,000 books per school (table 12). Sixty-one percent of the schools had fewer than 14 books per pupil (table 16), less than the recommended* 16-24 volumes per user.

Periodical subscriptions held at the end of the year totaled nearly 3 million titles (table 14), while audiovisual materials totaled 68 million.

The 21,000 schools with libraries in central SMSA's reported 168 million books; the 24,000 libraries in noncentral SMSA's reported 167 million; and the 30,000 libraries in non-SMSA's reported having 172 million, the largest number, at the end of th 1973-74 school year (table 12). Schools located in non-SMSA areas also had the largest number of audiovisual materials, 24 million titles, while non-central SMSA's reported 23 million, and central SMSA's reported 21 million titles of audiovisual materials (table 14). The mean volumes of books per pupil in these three types of locations were central SMSA's, 12; non-central SMSA's, 13; and non-SMSA's, 16 (table 18).

Although the schools located in central SMSA's had the smallest number of audiovisual materials and the second smallest number of book volumes, they reported the largest number (421 million) of direct loans of materials to users (table 19).

An indication of the utilization of library resources can be found by dividing the 1.2 billion loans (direct circulations) of library materials by the 43 million students attending schools with libraries. The result is an average of 28 loans per student made during the school year. Table 19 shows that since public schools received about five times as many library loans as they made to other libraries, they served their users effectively as sources of material from other types of libraries.

*American Library Association Media Programs, District and School, 1975

Staff

Library employee data are separated into two categories, certificated (holding State certification as librarians, media specialists, audiovisual specialists, or classroom teachers) and noncertificated.

Table E shows the certificated staff, by sex and employment status, for secondary schools and for elementary and combined schools (by membership size). Additional staff data, including data on noncertificated staff, may be found in tables 20 through 27. Tables 20 through 24 are based on full-time equivalent staff while tables 25 through 27 are based on the actual numbers of full and part-time staff.

Table E.--Certificated library staff, by sex and employment status and by school level and membership

School level and membership	Number of schools with libraries	Certificated staff			
		Men		Women	
		Full-time	Part-time	Full-time	Part-time
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
All schools	74,625	6,040	3,574	46,218	22,387
Secondary schools	22,315	4,027	1,550	20,687	4,914
2,000 or more	1,409	637	120	2,870	120
1,000 - 1,999	5,297	1,561	531	7,225	670
700 - 999	4,089	852	210	3,944	373
500 - 699	3,169	431	210	2,800	349
300 - 499	3,413	323	78	2,486	652
Under 300	4,938	223	401	1,362	2,750
Elementary and combined schools	52,310	2,013	2,024	25,531	17,473
2,000 or more	44	8	-	94	-
1,000 - 1,999	2,322	340	81	2,327	315
700 - 999	6,770	342	264	5,174	1,047
500 - 699	12,567	789	190	8,123	2,695
300 - 499	16,861	359	776	7,400	5,922
Under 300	13,746	175	713	2,413	7,494

Table 21 shows a mean of 1.2 full-time equivalent certificated staff at the secondary level and 0.7 at the elementary level. Fifty percent of the schools employed from 1 to 2 full-time equivalent certificated staff while 16 percent of the schools had no full-time equivalent certificated staff (table 22). One percent of the secondary schools and 8 percent of the elementary and combined schools with enrollments between 1,000 and 2,000 reported having no certificated library staff. Thirty percent of the elementary and combined schools with enrollments under 300 also reported no certificated staff.

In schools with full-time certificated staff, 22,362 of these staff members had at least a bachelor's degree, while 2,339 did not. Among part-time staff, 13,060 had bachelor's degrees and 2,911 did not (table 26). Those staff members with graduate degrees in librarianship, information science, instructional technology, or educational media totaled 21,902 full-time and 7,066 part-time employees.

The ratio of full-time equivalent classroom teachers to full-time certificated library staff was 38 to 1 in central SMSA's, 34 to 1 in noncentral SMSA's, and 29 to 1 in non-SMSA's (table 24). The ratio to library staff with graduate degrees was 84 to 1 in central SMSA's, 74 to 1 in noncentral SMSA's, and 106 to 1 in non-SMSA's.

Facilities

The facilities in which library resources are housed appeared to be relatively small in size. Twenty-five percent of the schools had between 1,800 and 3,600 square feet of floor space assigned for library purposes while 38 percent had less than 1,200 square feet of space (table 28). Sixty-eight percent of schools had less than 800 linear feet of shelving available for library materials (table 29). The mean number of square feet of shelving available was 3,520 in secondary schools and 1,842 in elementary and combined schools (table 30).

Seating was available for 40 or more library users at one time in 81 percent of the secondary schools and 54 percent of the elementary and combined schools. However, more than 8 percent of the schools had fewer than 20 seats (table 31). The mean number of seats available in all school libraries was 57 (table 32).

Hours of Service

Eighty-two percent of the school libraries were open between 30 and 50 hours per week. Thirteen percent of the secondary schools and 9 percent of the elementary and combined schools with enrollments of 2,000 or more were open 50 or more hours per week (table 33). Only 2 percent of school libraries were open fewer than 10 hours.

Ninety-four percent of the school libraries were open 5 days per week. Only 0.5 percent were open more than 5 days (table 34).

APPENDIXES

A. Methodology

B. Survey Report Form

Appendix A

Methodology

Source of Data

The purpose of the 1974 Survey of Public School Library/Media Centers was to obtain national estimates of library resources and services available to pupils and of the extent to which those pupils availed themselves of offerings in the approximately 89,000 public schools in the 50 States and of the District of Columbia. The estimates appearing in this report are based upon the data collected. From the 3,500 schools selected to be sampled, 3,146 provided usable responses that were included in the project. The sample design was a one-stage stratified simple random sample wherein the schools were stratified by region, location, school grade, and membership size, as shown below:

A. Region:

1. North Atlantic
2. Great Lakes and Plains
3. Southeast
4. West and Southwest

B. Location:

1. SMSA, central city
2. SMSA, outside central city
3. Outside SMSA

C. School grade:

1. Grades 9-12
2. Grades 7-9 secondary
3. Grades 7 or 8-12 school
4. All other grades-elementary and combined

D. Membership size:

a. 2,000 or more
b. 1,000-1,999
c. 700-999
d. 500-699
e. 300-499
f. under 300

The sample was selected from the National Center for Education Statistics' 1972-73 universe of public elementary and secondary day schools, the most recent base available at the time of selection. Allocation of the sample to strata was proportioned to enrollment size.

State Participation

Since this was the first survey in the Library General Information Survey (LIBGIS) system, four regional workshops were conducted throughout the Nation in September of 1974. The workshops were used as the method of familiarizing State coordinators with the survey and of training them in the manual editing phase which they were to perform in order to participate in the cost sharing associated with this project. Instructional staff consisted of NCES professional staff and the contractor's project staff.

Survey Procedure

In January 1975, 3,500 survey instruments were mailed out with a due date of May 31, 1975 to the 45 State education agencies (SEA's) under contract to perform the data gethering and preliminary editing of the forms, and to the local education agencies (LEA's) not under contract to the Office of Education.

Where applicable, three followup letters and a final telephone interview were used to the State coordinators, the LEA's, or the individual schools in order t achieve the survey's overall 90 percent response rate.

Completed questionnaires were examined, analyzed, and reviewed for compliance with instructions to respondents in order to obtain complete and accurate data. A clean data base was declared when the following requirements were met:

1. All obvious errors (arithmetic, omissions, keypunch, etc.) were corrected

2. All data questioned on a relative or judgmental basis, including data falling outside tolerances, were corrected or verified

Manual and machine editing of the forms were used to check the data for accuracy, consistency, and presence-absence items. For those items that involved the omission of key data, inconsistencies in reporting, or undecipherable information, clarification was obtained from the respondents at either the State or school level, depending upon the preference of the SEA. The estimating procedure used in this survey involved the inflation of the data from a sampled school by the inverse of the school's probability of selection in the 1974-75 universe of public elementary and secondary day schools. In order to account for the nonresponding schools in the stratum, the weights assigned to the responding schools were increased accordingly. It is noted that in this more current universe there were 87,465 schools that met the specifications of this survey.

Of the 3,505 schools that were in the original sample, there were 26 (.07 percent) which were found to be ineligible due to closing and for which there were no comparable substitutes.

A 90 percent response rate was obtained from those schools found to be eligible for the survey.

Reliability of the Estimates

Since the estimates in this report are based on a sample, they differ somewhat from the figures that would have been obtained from a complete census, using the same schedules, instructions and procedures. Particular care should be exercised in the interpretation of figures based on a relatively small number of cases as well as the interpretation of small differences between figures. As in any survey work, the results are subject to errors of response and non-reporting and to sampling variability.

The figures presented in table A-1 are standard errors computed for some representative characteristics. Use of this table may be made as follows. Table 20 of this report shows that the total nurber of certificated male library staff for all schools was 7378.5. Table A-1 indicates that the standard error for this estimate is 422. The chances are 68 out of 100 that the estimate would have been a figure differing from a complete census figure by less than 422. The chances are 95 out of a 100 that the estimate would have differed from a complete census figure by less than 827 (approximately twice the standard error).

Table A-1.—Standard errors. *Continued*

	Employees			Expenditures	Book volumes	Direct circulations
	Total	Men	Women			
SMSA, other	534	247	474	$ 9,792,409	3,083,515	12,870,222
Secondary schools	339	174	291	5,964,319	1,735,,583	5,826,610
2,000 or more	164	67	150	2,759,419	1,096,488	1,914,181
1,000–1,999	244	129	207	4,350,993	1,102,325	4,451,807
700–999	113	73	87	1,635,542	477,949	2,618,757
500–699	75	50	56	1,688,596	302,095	1,640,427
300–499	71	31	64	1,448,100	311,809	705,283
Under 300	69	13	68	871,350	421,806	627,431
Elementary and combined schools	413	176	374	7,812,189	2,548,689	11,475,767
2,000 or more	3	–	3	60,004	33,183	52,790
1,000–1,999	65	33	56	1,188,870	463,578	1,881,768
700–999	138	37	133	2,685,126	1,000,196	4,223,026
500–699	225	114	194	4,846,587	1,282,522	6,120,148
300–499	240	91	222	4,489,673	1,576,386	7,790,586
Under 300	197	85	178	2,959,191	1,072,177	3,587,979
Other than SMSA	641	281	577	10,106,794	3,108,405	18,170,899
Secondary schools	426	251	344	7,217,328	1,594,063	5,684,136
2,000 or more	49	19	45	389,737	379,439	1,426,551
1,000–1,999	257	120	227	1,304,772	747,836	2,157,631
700–999	143	98	105	2,149,818	682,493	3,181,153
500–699	161	109	118	1,411,239	486,227	3,082,122
300–499	156	104	117	1,381,566	583,645	1,696,279
Under 300	206	126	162	1,914,615	891,599	1,767,197
Elementary and combined schools	479	126	463	7,075,130	2,668,547	17,258,957
2,000 or more	7	3	6	108,702	107,835	6,647
1,000–1,999	69	34	60	2,674,619	436,506	2,212,305
700–999	115	46	105	1,306,106	672,906	12,195,765
500–699	202	73	188	2,296,476	1,100,559	8,594,179
300–499	298	64	291	4,851,460	1,618,619	6,793,884
Under 300	287	56	281	3,517,909	1,623,274	4,921,766

Table A-1.—Standard errors

	Employees			Expenditures	Book volumes	Direct circulations
	Total	Men	Women			
All schools	938	422	839	$16,024,775	5,154,017	27,660,427
Secondary schools	596	331	495	10,825,344	2,858,124	12,036,357
2,000 or more	218	9	197	4,620,735	1,497,163	4,395,748
1,000–1,999	395	200	341	8,544,165	1,790,024	9,185,048
700–999	198	133	147	3,004,435	944,846	4,456,008
500–699	181	123	134	2,218,414	610,289	3,665,335
300–499	174	109	136	2,027,416	678,245	2,044,269
Under 300	220	127	180	2,185,344	998,992	1,927,813
Elementary and combined schools	726	261	677	11,815,471	4,288,942	24,904,324
2,000 or more	9	3	8	190,013	118,337	60,067
1,000–1,999	155	83	131	3,500,486	1,023,355	5,870,556
700–999	241	96	222	3,699,112	1,519,548	14,542,677
500–699	353	152	319	6,044,763	2,080,334	13,216,152
300–499	425	132	404	7,187,703	2,493,310	12,580,070
Under 300	373	108	357	5,042,834	2,116,684	6,429,930
SMSA, central	430	195	384	7,665,172	2,719,125	16,409,602
Secondary schools	242	129	204	5,498,842	1,617,277	8,866,483
2,000 or more	136	64	119	3,685,771	946,170	3,690,998
1,000–1,999	174	95	146	3,784,371	1,195,746	7,737,210
700–999	77	52	57	1,315,261	445,535	1,696,580
500–699	39	25	30	381,513	211,601	1,115,439
300–499	30	14	26	323,568	148,827	896,800
Under 300	38	11	36	592,222	158,474	446,996
Elementary and combined schools	356	145	325	5,340,187	2,185,878	13,807,988
2,000 or more	5	–	5	143,834	35,695	27,875
1,000–1,999	123	68	102	1,920,001	801,133	5,101,773
700–999	161	75	142	2,183,487	925,113	6,702,151
500–699	183	68	170	2,788,540	1,213,135	7,959,306
300–499	185	70	172	2,822,986	1,054,360	7,169,941
Under 300	134	36	129	2,073,085	834,126	2,225,809